



## Paths to climate cooperation

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### Abstract:

Climate change is the largest commons governance problem that humanity has ever faced. Emissions of greenhouse gases anywhere in the world contribute to radiative forcing everywhere. The impacts of climate change vary greatly from place to place, and the vulnerability to those impacts differs across human groups and across other species, even in a single location. The five nations with the largest CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in 2008 were responsible for less than 60% of total global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Although the action of a moderate number of the largest emitters could have some effect, substantial reductions in climate risk will depend on cooperative action across many nations. However, the costs of reductions are borne by each nation individually, whereas risk reduction is shared by all nations. Getting self-interested and often distrustful nations to cooperate is a major obstacle to addressing the climate problem. So far, international agreements have not had much impact on the trajectory of emissions or the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. In the midst of this impasse, Heitzig et al. offer an analysis that may show a way out, and they certainly suggest important avenues for additional analysis. Their work falls clearly in what Stokes labeled "Pasteur's Quadrant"—like the work of Louis Pasteur, it contributes to fundamental knowledge and is clearly useful.

**Source:** <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3179105>

### Resource Description

#### Exposure : ☒

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Unspecified Exposure

#### Geographic Feature: ☒

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

#### Geographic Location: ☒

resource focuses on specific location

Global or Unspecified

#### Health Impact: ☒

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specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Health Outcome Unspecified

## **Mitigation/Adaptation:**

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Mitigation

## **Resource Type:**

format or standard characteristic of resource

Policy/Opinion

## **Timescale:**

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified